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**FROM:** Peter G. Thurlow

**RE:** U.S. APPLN. NO. 08/878,581

ATSUSHI OHTANI ATTORNEY DOCKET: 03560.001975.

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#### **EXAMINER VU:**

FURTHER TO OUR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION OF TODAY, ATTACHED PLEASE FIND COPIES OF THE RCE, PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND STAMPED RETURN POST CARD IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBJECT APPLICATION.

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## Patenti Produčojny Pilot Projest



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Application No. 08/878,581

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**Application No.:** Response Date:

08/878,581 Apr. 27, 2003

#### **IMAGE SENSING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(76) Inventors: Atsushi Ohtani, Inagi (JP); Yasuhide Ueno, Hino (JP); Masashi Kimura, Kawasaki (JP)

Notice:

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 12 days. '

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(22) Filed:

Jun. 19, 1997

(30)

Foreign Application Priority Data

(JP) ...... 8-169716 Jun. 28, 1996

Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ...... H04N 7/18; H04N 9/04

U.S. Cl. ...... 348/269; 348/70; 358/509; 358/512; 235/462.42

Field of Search ...... 348/268, 269, 348/70, 270, 271, 222.1, 223.1, 224.1; 358/509, 512, 513, 516, 519; 235/462.42,

. (56)

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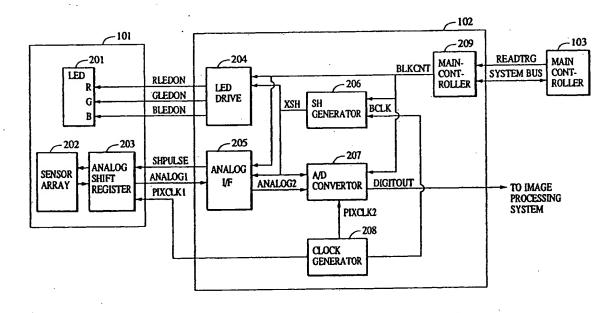
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Primary Examiner-Ngoc-Yen Vu

#### **ABSTRACT**

An image sensing apparatus senses an image by illuminating a document by a light source including three light emitting diodes which emit light of red, green, and blue so that the light reflected from the document is incident on a sensor array which in turn generates an electric signal corresponding to the incident light, wherein a predetermined light emitting diode is also turned on during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed thereby making it possible to stabilize the intensity of light illuminating an image. Thus, the invention provides a high-performance and small-sized image sensing apparatus at a low cost.

#### 42 Claims, 28 Drawing Sheets



This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C.